

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 299298

FOLLOWING REPEAT ROME 19278 ACTION SECSTATE, INFO ANKARA,
ATHENS, BONN, BRUSSELS, COPENHAGEN, THE HAGUE, LISBON, LONDON,
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QTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 19278

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN PROGRAM MEETING, ROME, 22/23
NOVEMBER

REF: STATE 284125

BELOW IS THE TEXT OF THE "AGREED MINUTE OF THE SECOND
INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN GROUP STATE SECRETARIES MEETING".

BEGIN TEXT

1. THE INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN PROGRAMME GROUP MET FOR THE SECOND
TIME AT THE LEVEL OF STATE SECRETARIES IN ROME ON 22 AND 23
NOVEMBER. THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES WERE REPRESENTED: BELGIUM,
DENMARK, FRANCE, GREECE, ITALY, LUXEMBOURG, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY,
PORTUGAL, TURKEY, UNITED KINGDOM.

2. THE GROUP EXTENDED A WARM WELCOME TO PORTUGAL WHICH WAS
PARTICIPATING FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE IEPG.

3. THE IEPG REVIEWED THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN THE THREE MAIN
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AREAS OF WORK:

- A) THE EXAMINATION OF SPECIFIC COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS;
- B) THE HARMONISATION OF EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT PLANS;
- C) THE ELABORATION OF A COLLECTIVE EUROPEAN APPROACH TO CERTAIN GENERAL PROBLEMS OF ECONOMICS AND PROCEDURES IN THE FIELD OF DEFENCE PROCUREMENT.

THE COMMON GOAL OF THIS ACTIVITY SHOULD BE IN LINE WITH THE FINAL RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE IEPG ON 2ND OF FEBRUARY 1976 AND WITH THE CREATION OF A MORE BALANCED, COMPETITIVE AND SUCCESSFUL EUROPEAN ARMAMENT INDUSTRY, CONSISTENT WITH THE WIDER INTERESTS OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE AS A WHOLE. THE GROUP CONFIRMED THAT THE IEPG SHOULD CONTINUE TO ACT AS THE MAIN EUROPEAN FORUM FOR EUROPEAN COLLABORATION IN THE DEFENCE EQUIPMENT FETUM

4. THE GROUP TOOK NOTE OF A REPORT FROM THEIR NATIONAL ARMAMENTS DIRECTORS AND ENDORSED THE ON-GOING PROGRAMME OF WORK SET IN HAND BY THE NADS. THE GROUP HAS CONFIRMED THAT THE SUBGROUPS ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE IEPG ARE ENABLED TO CARRY OUT ALL THE WORK THAT IS NECESSARY FOR THE FULFILLMENT OF THE TASKS THAT WERE ENTRUSTED TO THEM.

5. WITH REGARD TO THE WORK OF THE SUB-GROUP ON INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION, THE GROUP AGREED THAT USE COULD BE MADE BY THE SUB-GROUP OF THE RESULTS OF THE STUDIES BEING CARRIED OUT BY THE STANDING ARMAMENTS COMMITTEE OF THE WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION; AND THEY INSTRUCTED THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SUB-GROUP TO SET IN HAND THE WORK OF THE SUB-GROUP WITHOUT DELAY.

6. THE SUB-GROUP ON ARMS EXPORT WAS INSTRUCTED TO COLLECT ALL RELEVANT INFORMATION FROM MEMBER COUNTRIES ON:

- A) NATIONAL LEGISLATION ON ARMS EXPORT;
- B) ARMS EXPORT PROCEDURES ALREADY ESTABLISHED ON COOPERATIVE MULTINATIONAL WEAPONS PRODUCTION PROJECTS;
- C) EXISTING AGREEMENTS FOR THE EXPORT OF COMMONLY DEVELOPED AND/OR BI-OR MULTILATERALLY PRODUCED WEAPONS.

THE SUB-GROUP WAS ALSO INSTRUCTED TO PREPARE A REPORT ON THE ABOVE INFORMATION EMPHASISING THE COMMON ELEMENTS.

7. THE GROUP AGREED THAT, IN THE MANDATE OF PANEL III, REFERENCE SHOULD BE MADE TO GUIDE-LINES RATHER THAN TO GENERAL PRINCIPLES, FOR COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF DEFENCE EQUIPMENT.

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THE GUIDE-LINES PROGRESSIVELY ESTABLISHED BY PANEL III ARE INTENDED FOR USE BY THE WORKING GROUPS AS A BASIS FOR THEIR WORK. SUB GROUPS CHAIRMEN SHOULD CONSULT WITH THE CHAIRMEN OF PANEL III ON ANY BASIC QUESTION AND IF NEED BE REPORT TO THE NADS OF THE IEPG. THE GROUP WILL CONSIDER THE CONVERSION OF THE GUIDE-LINES INTO PRINCIPLES AT A FUTURE DATE.

8. THE IEPG ASKS THE CHAIR TO CONTINUE TO INFORM IN DETAIL THE

NON-PARTICIPATING ALLIES, AS WELL AS THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, OF ITS PROCEEDINGS. THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CHAIR IN THE CNAD WILL INFORM THE CONFERENCE ABOUT IEPG WORK AND RESULTS. THE IEPG/NAD WILL STUDY THE BEST WAYS TO DEVELOP A FRUITFUL TRANS-ATLANTIC DIALOGUE ON DEFENCE PROCUREMENT ISSUES OF MUTUAL INTEREST AND WILL PUT FORWARD SPECIFIC PROPOSALS TO THAT EFFECT TO THE NEXT PLENARY SESSION OF IEPG. IN THIS CONTEXT REFERENCE WAS MADE TO RECENT DECISIONS BY THE U.S. CONGRESS AND TO THE PROSPECT THESE OFFERED FOR A MORE EQUITABLE BALANCE IN THIS FIELD BETWEEN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA.

9. THE CHAIRMANSHIP FOR 1977 WAS CONFIRMED TO ITALY. THE GROUP WILL MEET AT NAD LEVEL IN MARCH 1977 AND SUBSEQUENTLY AT STATE SECRETARIES LEVEL.

10. COMMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION BY SEPTTEL.VOLPE
UNQTE: ROBINSON

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